

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W

----- 042094

R 070905Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1622

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USEL MBFR VIENNA 22

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, FR, IT, XG

SUBJECT: EAST GERMANS INTENSIFY EFFORTS ON ECPC

REF: MOSCOW 15778

1. SUMMARY. THE GDR LEADERSHIP HAS INTENSIFIED ITS

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EFFORTS AS STALKING HORSE FOR THE SOVIETS IN LAYING

THE GROUNDWORK FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE (ECPC) IN EAST BERLIN. RECENT VISITS TO EAST BERLIN OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST LEADERS ATTEST TO THIS ACTIVITY. IN ADDITION, SED CHIEF HONECKER HAS NOW LENT HIS CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE IN APPARENTLY SEEKING TO LINE UP FRENCH AND ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR THE FINAL DOCUMENT PRIOR TO THE IMPORTANT NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE DRAFTING GROUP IN BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY VISITED EAST BERLIN LAST WEEK; THE FRENCH DELEGATION, HEADED BY PCF GENERAL SECRETARY GEORGES MARCHAIS, ARRIVED ON OCTOBER 30 AND A LOWER-LEVEL ITALIAN GROUP, LED BY PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PAOLO BUFALINI AND ANGELO OLIVA, ARRIVED ON NOVEMBER 3. BOTH DELEGATIONS MET WITH SED CHIEF HONECKER DURING THEIR VISITS AND WITH THE TWO GDR OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH COORDINATING THE GDR DRAFTING EFFORT IN PREPARATION FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE: POLITBURO MEMBER HERMANN AXEN AND PAUL MARKOWSKI, HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SECTION OF THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

3. THE EAST GERMANS MADE AN EFFORT TO WOO THE FRENCH DELEGATION BY INVITING NOT JUST MARCHAIS BUT ALSO PCF POLITBURO MEMBER GASTON PLISSONNIER; GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CCT GEORGES SEGUY; AND THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF ALL THREE VISITORS. THE GDR MAY HAVE SET UP THIS "FAMILY STYLE" VISIT IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE FRENCH LEADERS TO SUPPORT A REPORTED CONCESSION OF THE SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN LEADERS TO LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT FINAL ECPC DOCUMENT WHICH PERMITS INDIVIDUAL PARTY INDEPENDENCE IN INTERPRETING EVENTS AND IN CONTACTS WITH OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES AND WITH NON-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL. THIS ISSUE, OF COURSE, LIES AT THE HEART OF THE CONTROVERSY AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, THE SHORT ADN REPORT ON MARCHAIS' MEETING WITH HONECKER, AXEN AND MARKOWSKI MADE NO MENTION OF THE CONFERENCE AND REFERRED ONLY TO "THE ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT STAND BEFORE BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTIES". THE REPORT WAS LUKEWARM AT BEST, DESCRIBING THE CONVERSATION AS HAVING TAKEN PLACE IN A "BROTHERLY ATMOSPHERE REFLECTING THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES."

4. THE FACT THAT CGT HEAD SEGUY AND FDGB CHAIRMAN HARRY TISCH ALSO MET DURING THE VISIT SUGGESTS THAT TOPICS PERTAINING TO PCF DOMESTIC STRATEGY WERE ALSO DIS-

CUSSED. THE GDR HAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN ON A LARGER ROLE OF LATE IN ADVISING COMMUNIST PARTIES OUT OF POWER ON DOMESTIC STRATEGY ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIETS.

5. HONECKER, AXEN AND MARKOWSKI APPEAR TO HAVE HAD AN EASIER TIME WITH THE ITALIANS, AND THIER NOVEMBER 3 DISCUSSIONS WITH BUFALINI AND OLIVA WERE HELD IN A "CORDIAL AND BROTHERLY ATMOSPHERE" ACCORDING TO ADN. IN THE ITALIAN CASE, GDR MEDIA REPORTED THAT PREPARATIONS FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED ALONG WITH THE PCI'S STRUGGLE FOR "TRUE DEMOCRATIC CHANGE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN INTALY."

6. COMMENT: THE GDR IS STEPPING UP ITS LOBBYING EFFORT TO NAIL DOWN SUPPORT FOR AN EAST BERLIN CONFERNCE AND IS NOW ROLLING OUT THE BIG GUNS BEFORE THE IMPORTANT DRAFTING GROUP MEETING REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER IN EAST BERLIN. IT REMAINS UNCLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT HONECKER WAS SUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING THE FRENCH COMMUNIST LEADERS TO ACCEPT AND SUPPORT A BASIC CHANGE IN THE DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT. THAT HONECKER SHOULD HAVE TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THE PCF LEADERS TO ACCEPT A PROVISION IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT THAT THE EAST GERMANS THEMSELVES VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED AT FIRST IS AN IRONIC MEASURE OF HOW MUCH GROUND THE SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS HAVE APPARENTLY GIVEN IN ORDER TO HOLD WHAT NOW LOOKS TO BE A PURELY SYMBOLIC RITE OF COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY IN EAST BERLIN THIS WINTER. COOPER

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## Message Attributes

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